

Remarks

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-13 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-3 are independent and have been amended herein.

Initially, Applicants' undersigned representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of August 6, 2008. The discussion during the interview will be summarized below.

In the final Office Action dated April 15, 2008, Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,109,746 (Jeanmaire et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,234,625 (Wen), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,398,357 (Holloway et al.). Claim 6 was rejected under § 103 over Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,059,407 (Komatsu et al.). Claim 7 was rejected under § 103 over Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,318,853 (Asano et al.). Claim 11 was rejected under § 103 over Jeanmaire et al., Wen, and Holloway et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,623,816 (Tanikawa et al.).

During the interview, the differences between the claimed invention and the combination of Jeanmaire et al., Wen and Holloway et al. were discussed. Applicants' undersigned representative emphasized that the combination in the rejection did not teach or suggest applying a first liquid, applying a second liquid to the intermediate transfer medium to which the first liquid has been applied, and applying ink to the intermediate transfer medium, to

which the first and second liquids have been applied, with the first liquid for increasing wettability or containing a surfactant, and the second liquid for decreasing flowability of ink, reacting with ink, or aggregating a coloring material in ink. Nevertheless, to further clarify the invention, it was agreed during the interview to amend the claims as set forth herein. Although these changes are not believed to be necessary for patentability, they are presented herein to advance prosecution and expedite allowance. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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